

## Council 4 AFSCME

### **Please support SB 711, AAC the Elimination of State Financial Assistance for Companies that Reduce Retirement Benefits.**

This bill mandates that companies that reduce pension and health benefits to their retired workers will no longer be eligible for state grants or assistance.

- Everyone who works for a living should be entitled to a pension so that they don't have to live their elderly years in poverty.
- Since the late 1970s corporate profits and executive compensation have grown massively (in 2004, according to the New York Times, the average CEO of a major company received \$9.84 million in total compensation) yet there has been a huge revocation of pensions of working families.
- In 1978 there were over 128,041 pension plans in the United States. By 2004 there were only 26,000.
- In the steel and airline industries, tens of thousands of workers have had their employers renege on their contractual obligation to pay those workers a pension

#### **Recent Hartford Courant news article quotes:**

**"A New Haven federal court judge has ruled that CIGNA misled its employees about a switch to a new pension plan, and attorneys will now try to recoup hundreds of millions of dollars in retirement benefits for thousands of worker" – February 20, 2008**

**"CIGNA Corp. reported a 13.4 percent jump in fourth-quarter net income Wednesday..." – February 8, 2008**

**"Although a reinvigorated Aetna is making millions again, it is phasing out medical insurance subsidies for employees who retire in 2004 or later." – May 1, 2004**

**"Aetna Inc. piled up 16 percent more net profit in the first quarter as membership and revenue jumped..." – April 29, 2005**

Thank you for your consideration and action. If you have any questions please feel free to call Dennis O'Neil or Brian Anderson at 860-224-4000